

S.O.S.

LNS is at the brink. Either we find the support and resources within the next month to enable us to pay our salaries and improve the LNS packets or we face the dire necessity of calling it quits after more than 13 years of continuous publication.

Here in New York, our initial plea for aid has produced the encouraging offer of a \$10,000 grant, but it comes in the challenging form of a matching fund. If we are successful in our fund-raising effort, not only will the news service survive, but we will have enough money to make some of the major changes we feel are needed if LNS is to be effective and valuable in the years to come.

Although the lack of money is ultimately the source of our crisis, we are not drastically in debt. For an operation with an annual budget of close to \$100,000, a \$5,000 collection of unpaid bills is hardly monumental. But what those figures camouflage is the enormous subsidy now paid by staff members trying to scrape by on only \$60 a week. If we could once honestly call that a subsistence wage, we can do so no longer. It has become virtually impossible to recruit new staff members at our pay scale. And we all feel the pinch on our time and our energies. Most of us have resorted to other part time work to pay the rent—not a satisfactory solution considering the more than full-time demands of LNS.

The realization that this longstanding struggle had become an immediate crisis came when one of us regretfully announced that she couldn't keep going any longer. We all understood what

(continued on inside front cover)

**Liberation News Service
1967-1981 (?)**

had pushed her to that decision, just as we all understood that collectively we had been pushed to the point where each individual's contribution had become indispensable.

This crisis landed on us just when many other aspects of our work seemed to be looking up. If we have all felt somewhat drained lately, it has been because suddenly there seemed to be too much going on for us to keep up with—a welcome change from the periods in recent years when it seemed that there was little interest in the things we felt should be covered. The headlines are full of both exciting and frightening developments as the Reagan Gang takes command in Washington. And people around the country seem to be waking up to the need to mobilize and unify their forces to meet the challenge, creating the kind of environment in which we would like to think LNS could serve a vital function.

As a national media project uniquely conceived to serve as a tool to local, grassroots publications, LNS has always tried to link different groups, different issues, different interests. Now more than ever, that task seems absolutely imperative.

The prospect is both intimidating and exciting. But if we can conquer our financial difficulties, we can afford to get excited about such possibilities as forging close ties with an excellent new alternative news agency (APIA) based in Nicaragua and Mexico. That connection could give us and our subscribers unequalled coverage of the struggle in El Salvador and Central America. We also see the need to cooperate more closely with other alternative news agencies whose efforts parallel or overlap our own. To that end, even before this crisis, we had begun exploring possibilities for financial support to pull together a national conference of alternative media. One of our goals there would be to develop closer ties with many of our subscribers, with the hope that some could be induced to take on the function of acting as LNS bureaus.

Even with these ideas and our new sense of direction, we still couldn't see how we could keep going if even one of our hard core staffers felt compelled to resign. We seriously considered just packing it in. But after a series of lengthy meetings we decided we owed ourselves, LNS, and its faithful friends and subscribers more than that. Instead, we plan to spend the next month beating the bushes, hoping to find the \$10,000 to match what has already been promised.

If that "if" comes through, we have a number of plans that we hope will help us to meet the challenge of the coming period. For starters, selfish as it may sound, we see raising our salaries as an absolute necessity. We've set our sights on something at least approaching the minimum wage (even if our new president doesn't believe in such things). To make sure that in a few months we don't land right back where we are today, we would make several changes designed to cut our expenses and increase our income.

We would move to a smaller, cheaper location. We would simplify the production process in order to make it less expensive and less dependent on the skills of one or two people.

We also see it as necessary to resume a weekly publication schedule, work out a way to speed up the flow of urgent news through use of telex, concentrate on producing a higher percentage of shorter, more usable articles, and raise the pay scale for outside contributors so that we could offer more first-hand reporting and original graphics and photos.

Our dream list could go on and on. Partly we need to know what changes would be most valuable to you, our subscribers. We have for a long time felt the need for more contact with the people who use LNS. As we send off each packet we wonder about what was used from the previous one. Not that we just want a pat on the back for an article well done, a graphic well drawn; we need to know what kind of articles our subscribers want. We need criticism as much as suggestions. And in the end we need to know whether you believe LNS is worth the effort—not just on our part, as the people who produce the packet, but on your part as people who could contribute great-

ly to reshaping LNS in a way that will meet your needs.

Of course, what this all comes down to is a plea for contributions to help us match the \$10,000 pledge. We also are looking for contacts with any funding sources which we may be unaware of. A letter of support detailing the way your paper has used our service would help us in approaching donors.

We can guarantee that any response in writing will be read and considered carefully, that any response in dollars will be most gratefully accepted and will not be spent to meet current expenses until we have determined whether we will still be around three months from now. Any money that does come in will be placed in a separate account, to be used only if we reach our target; if not it will be returned.

So we look forward anxiously, eagerly, hopefully to hearing from you.

In solidarity,
The LNS collective

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LIBERATION News Service, now in its thirteenth year,
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Ms Meg

by bülbül



WHERE CAN I REGISTER.....MY OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAFT!



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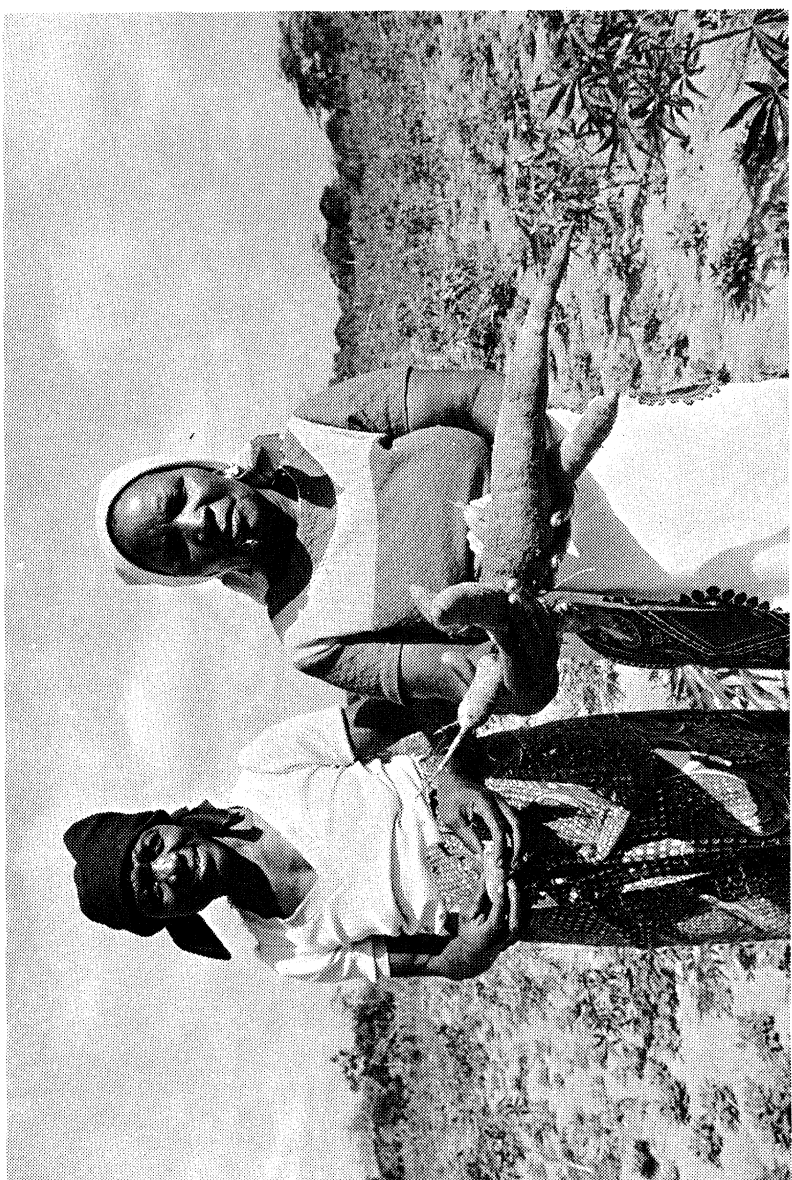
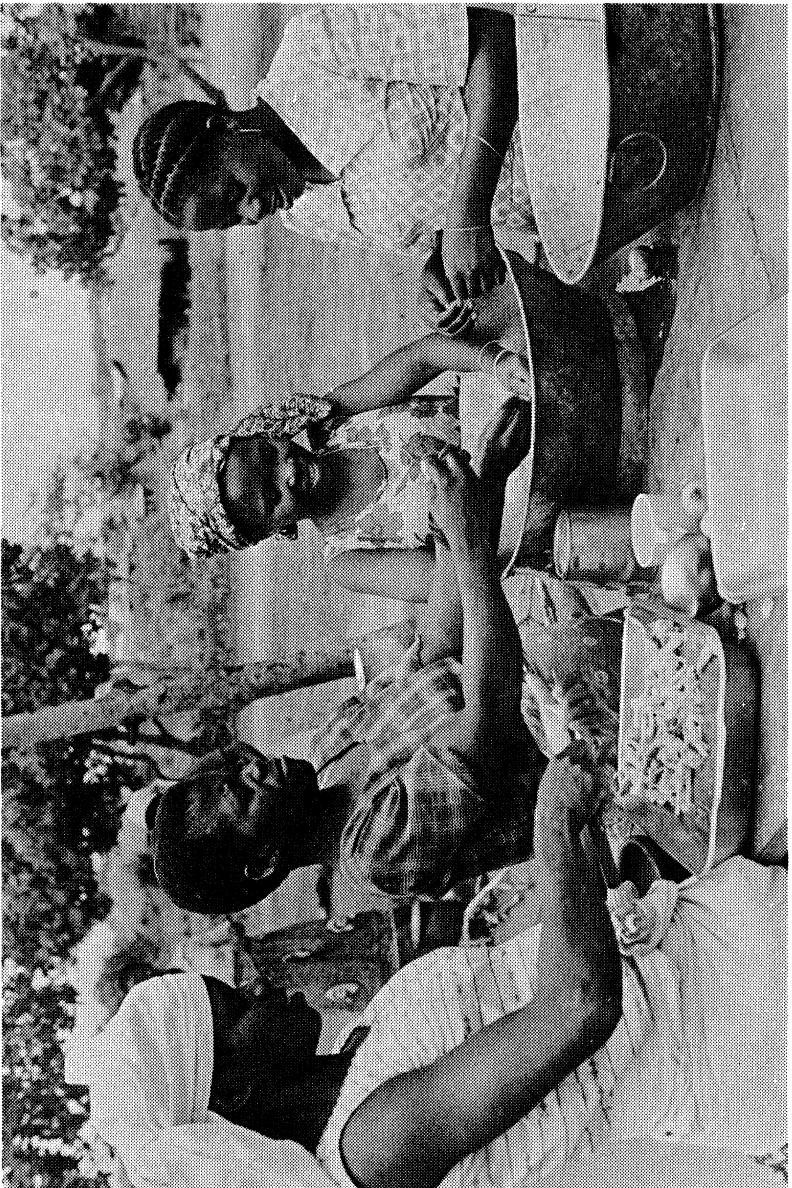
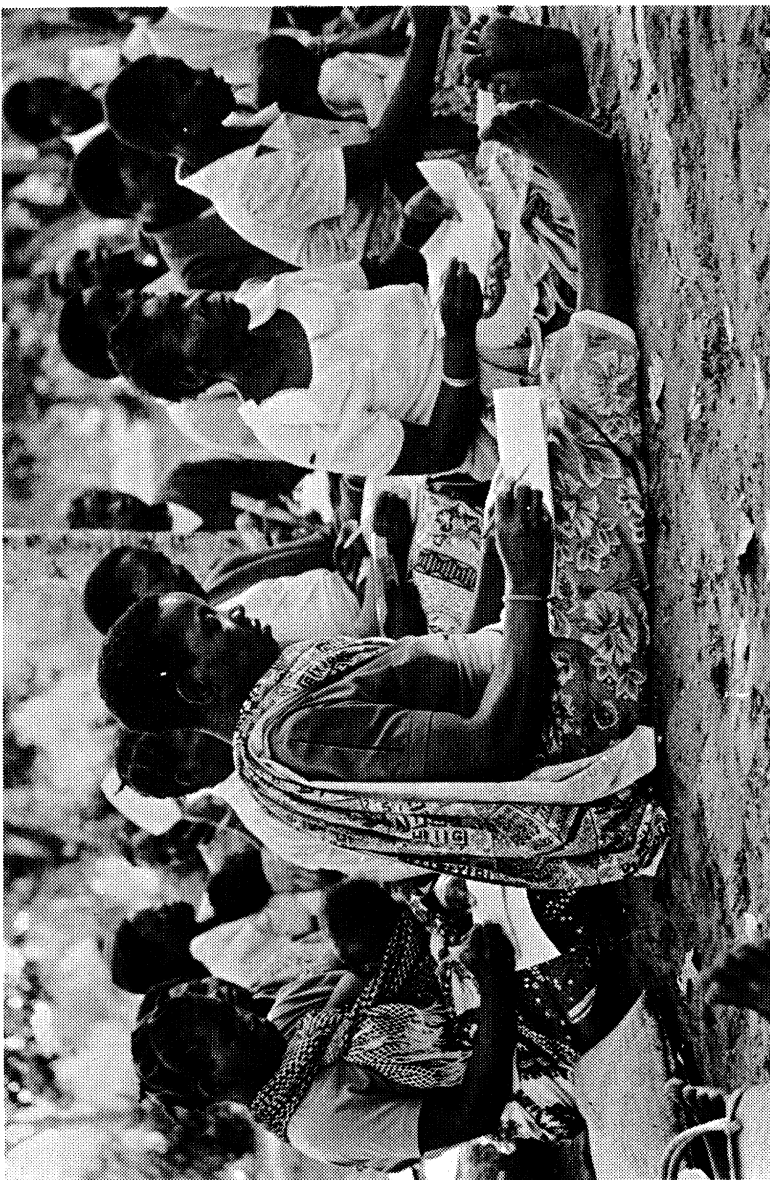
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Three Makonde women of Litamanda Communal Village, Cabo Delgado province. They helped cook food for FRELIMO guerrillas during the war when their village was part of the liberated zones. After independence, it was rebuilt and now includes an electric generated water pump, an agricultural cooperative, schools, literacy classes and a creche.

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Students at an experimental center for women organized by OMM prepare lunch. The Center, in Nampula Province, trains women from communal villages in such areas as nutrition, latrine building, food preparation, and hygiene so that they in turn train others at home, after the three month course.

The Communal Villages which are being established throughout Mozambique since winning independence from Portuguese colonialism in 1975, have been especially beneficial to women. Committees of the Organization of Mozambican Women (OMM) have been established to mobilize women for the rebuilding of their country through their work in the villages. Customs such as polygyny, child marriage and lobolo (bride price) are strongly discouraged, and economic co-operatives - still in the early stages of organization - give women the potential for cash income to supplement their subsistence farming on their individual plots.

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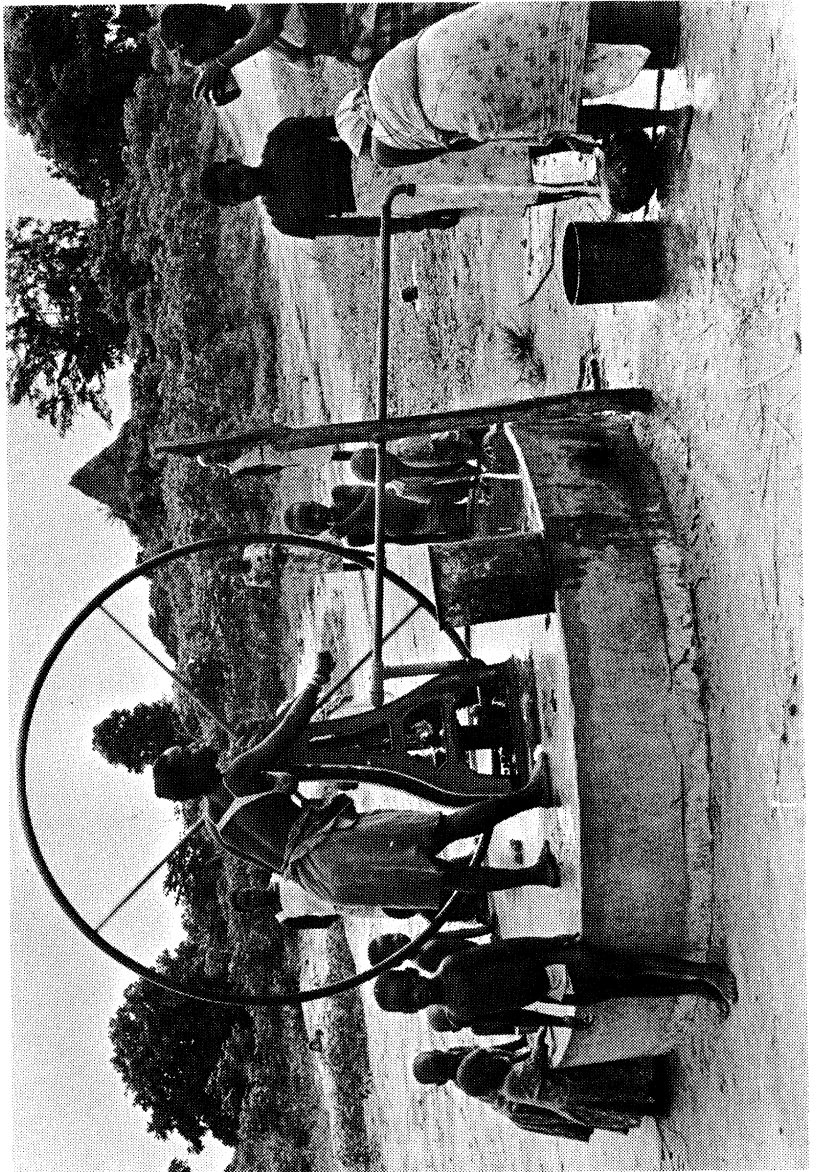
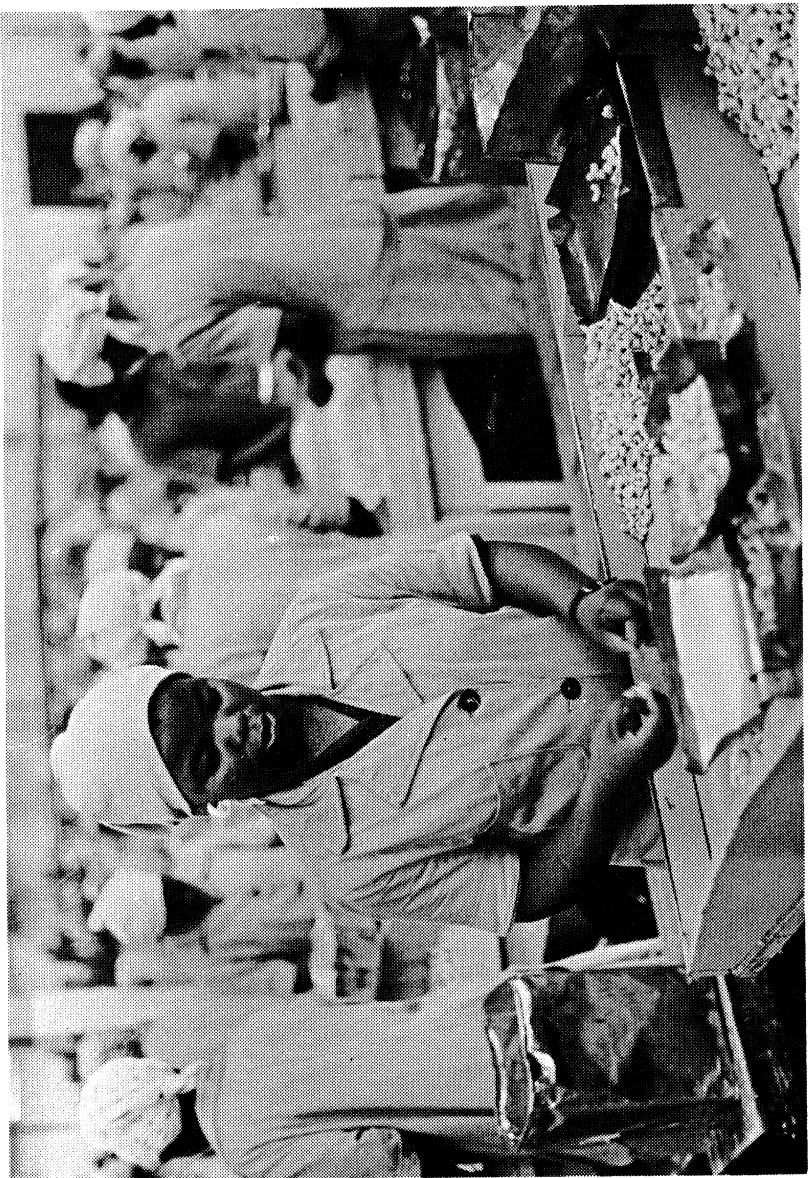
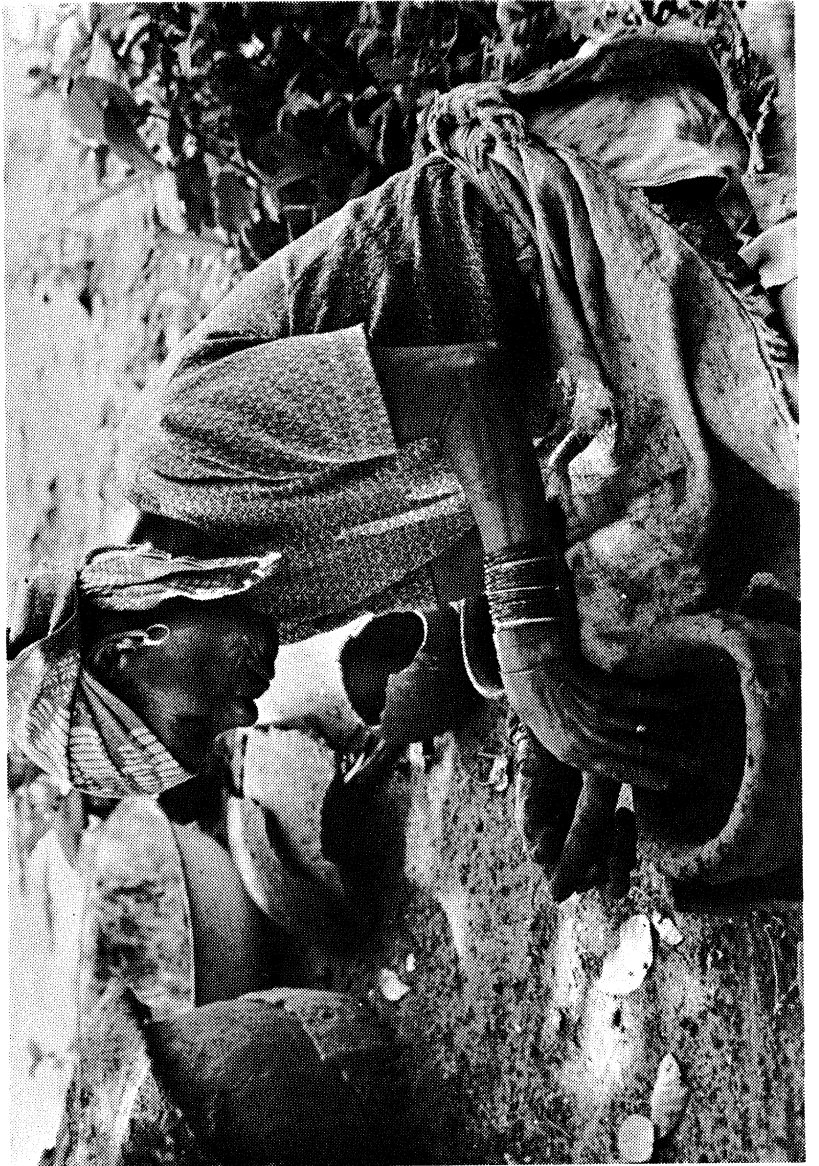
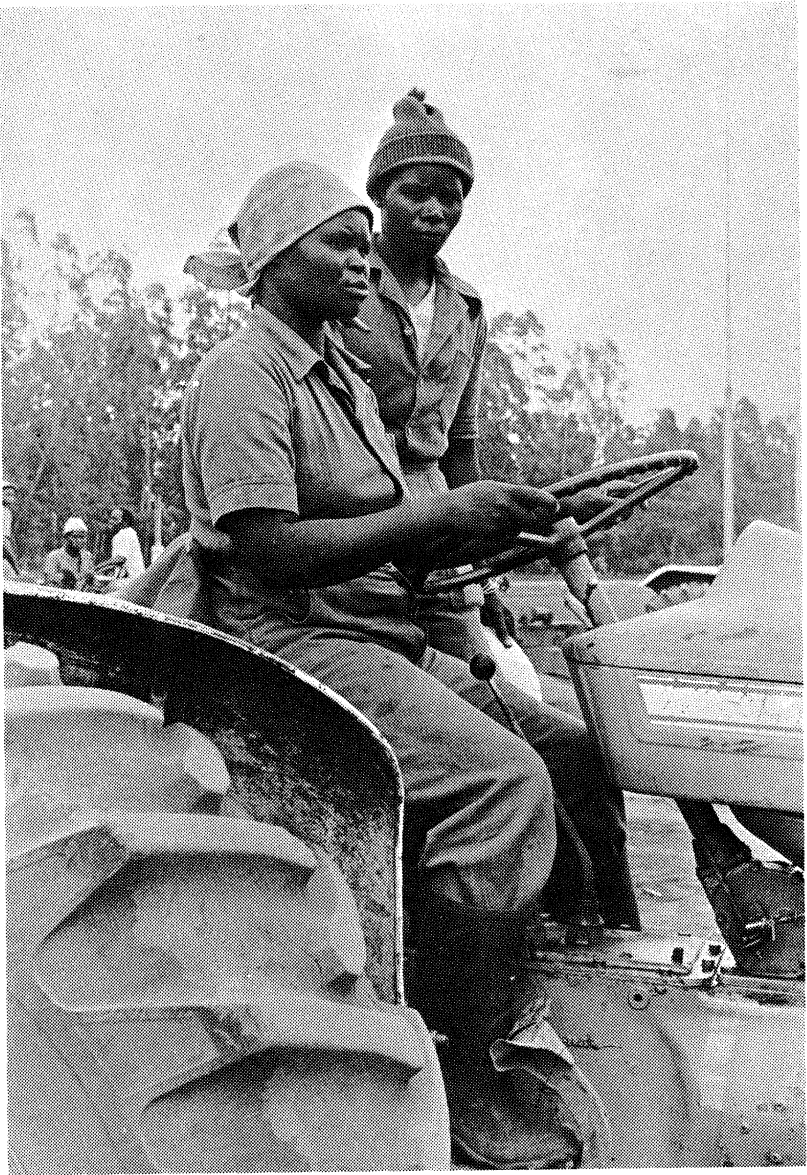
Hands that for many years have wielded only hoes, are now being taught to hold pencils. All the communal villages have literacy classes, which are attended after hours of hard work in the fields. Here, women in the class, the majority, work on an exam question at the end of the school year.

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Leah Manhique (right) is the OMM Secretary for her communal village, 3rd of February, Gaza Province. The village was established after the floods of 1977 wiped out many settlements along the Limpopo River. Now, in 1980, the area is suffering from severe drought and crops are failing. However, manioc such as this from the individual plot of an OMM activist (left), being one of the hardiest crops, continues to be harvested.



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A clay pot cooperative has been established at the communal village of Mao Tse Tung, Gaza Province. This is one of the oldest women of the village, who passes on her skills as a potter to other women, to make pots which are sold to fund OMM work in the village. The eventual goal is for the women themselves to gain additional income.

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The 1976 Conference of OMM passed a strong resolution that stated that women must be trained to take on work that previously had been the domain of men. Now, four and a half years later, women can be found driving tractors, working as motor mechanics, as hospital technicians, as train drivers, and as bus conductors to name a few. This young woman drives a tractor for a large state-owned sugar cane factory and fields in Manhice, Maputo Province.

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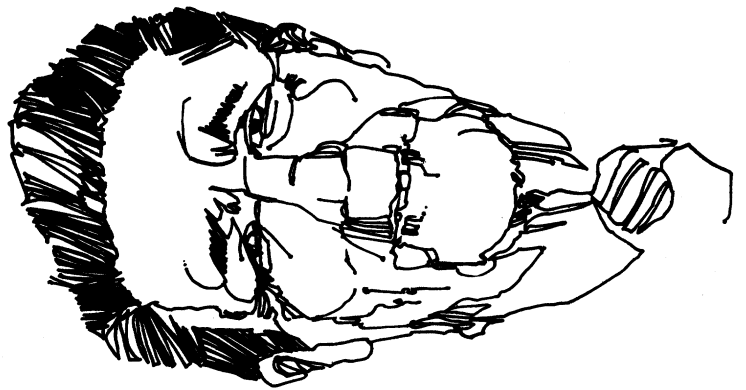
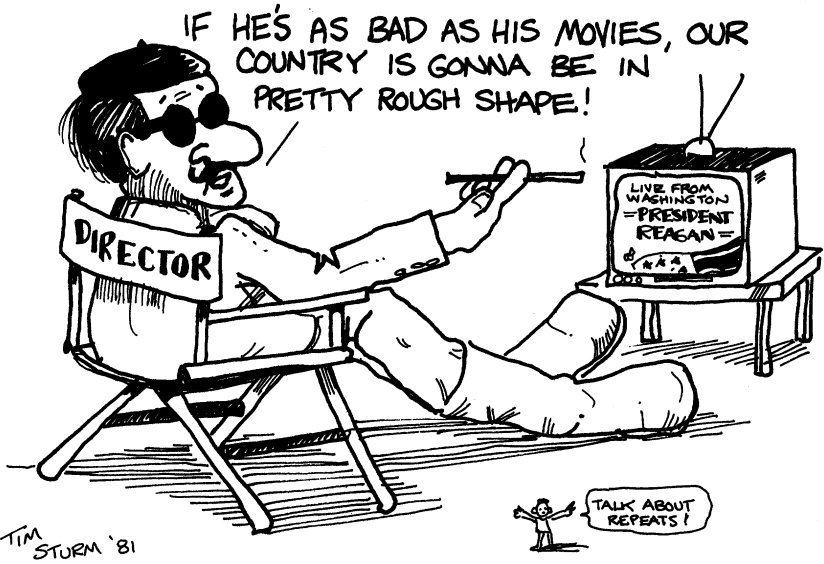
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This hand-driven water pump is in the center of Motanje communal village, Zambezia Province. Women who do not live in communal villages have to travel great distances for water, even, in the more remote areas of some provinces, up to 20 kilometers each way. These pumps have made "women's" work - still mostly done by women - considerably lighter.

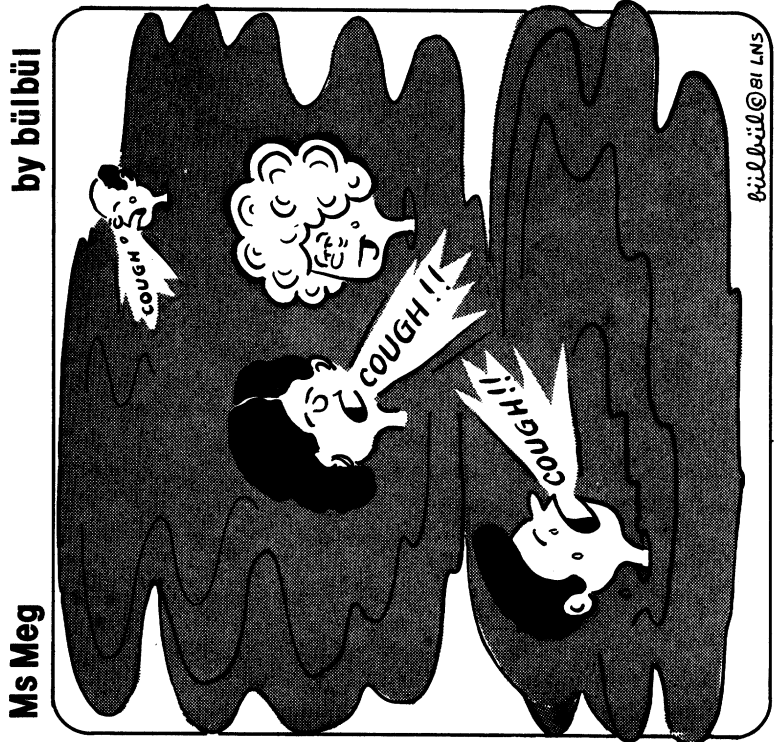
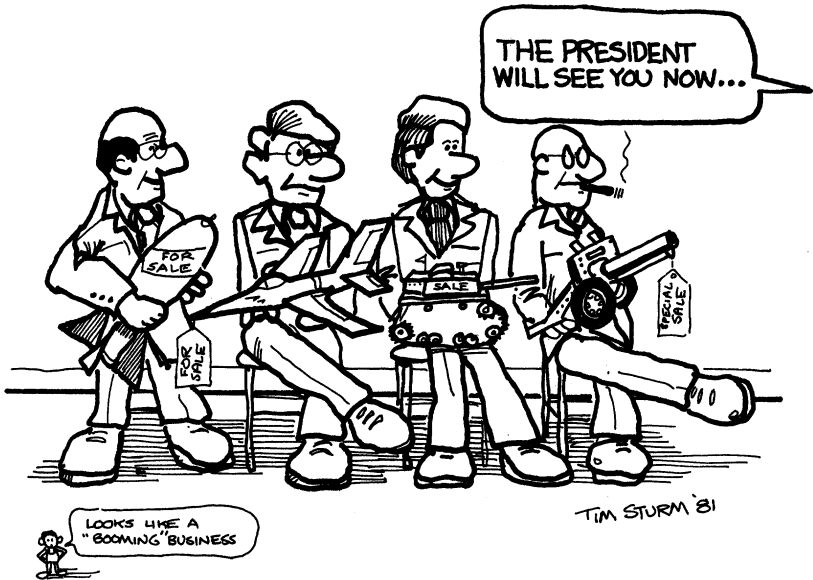
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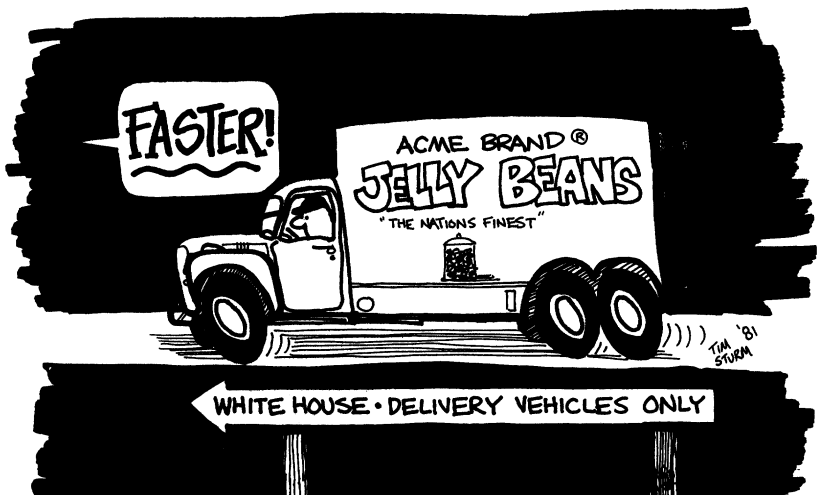
Cashew nuts are a major export crop. Women fought a long struggle supported by the Provincial Committee of OMM to have women hired in this factory in the capital of Gaza Province. The workforce of about 300 now has 40 women.



Meg/entertainment



...AND REAGAN IS GOING TO LIGHTEN UP ON THE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS!



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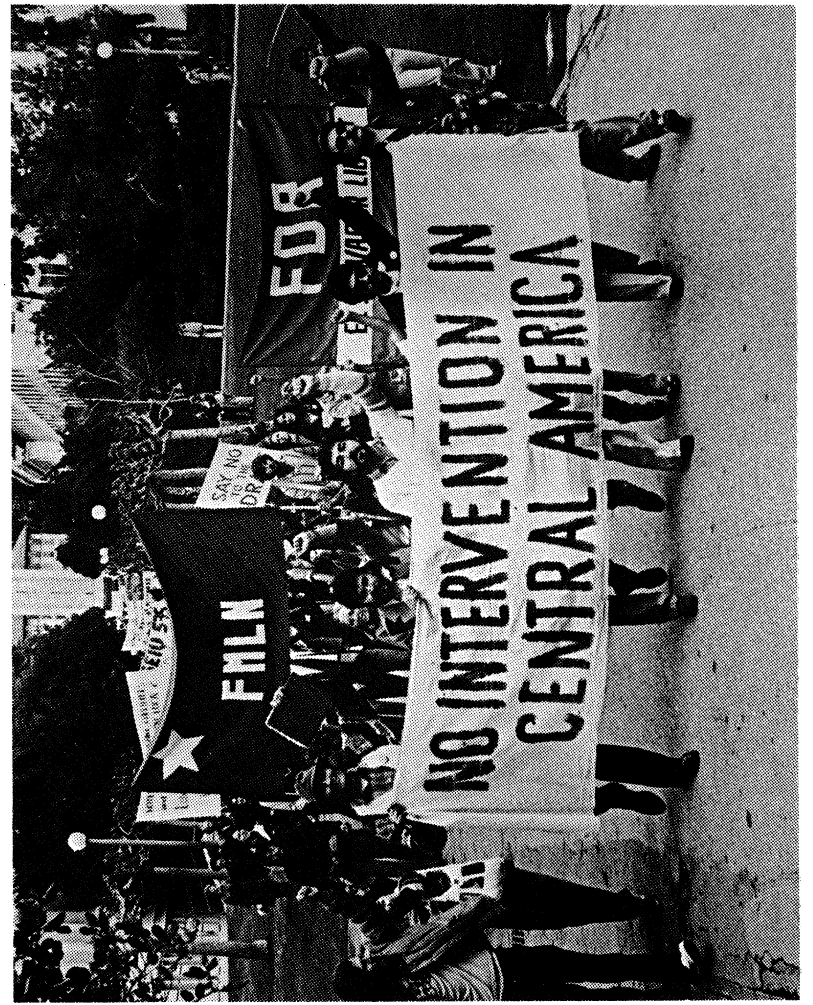
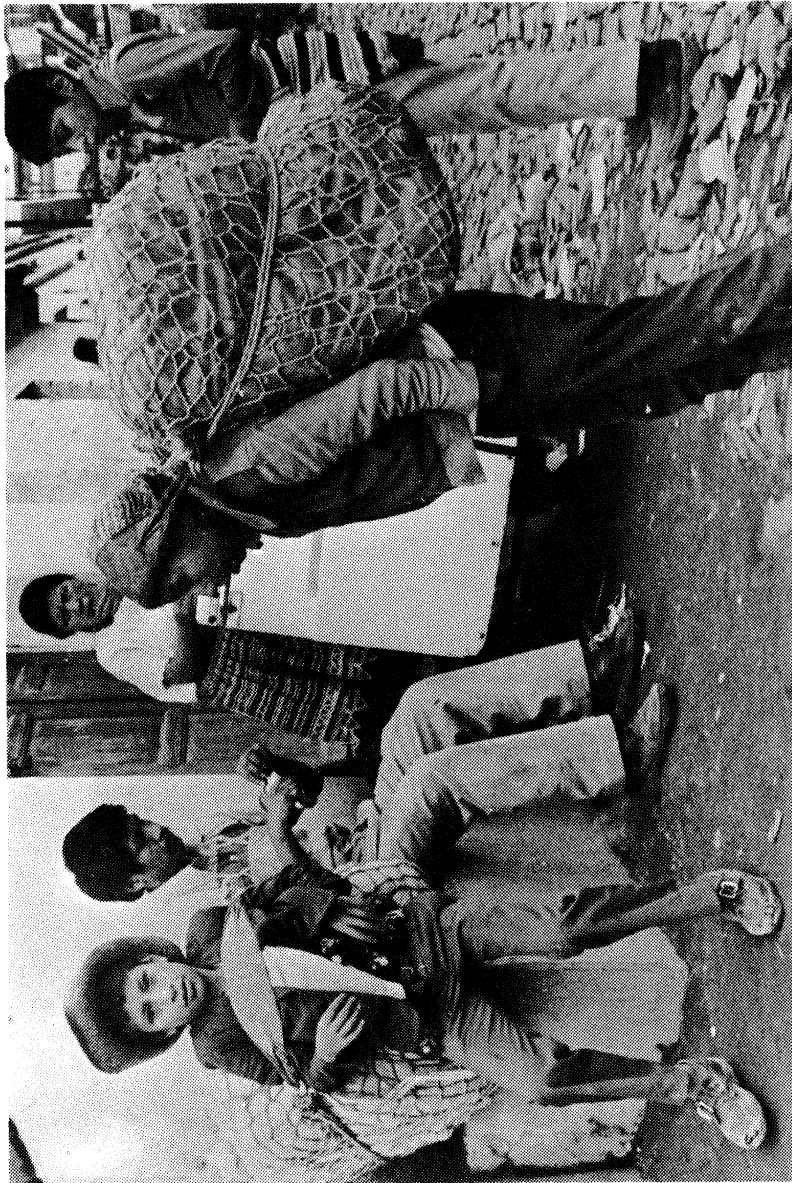
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Two million gathered on January 30, 1981
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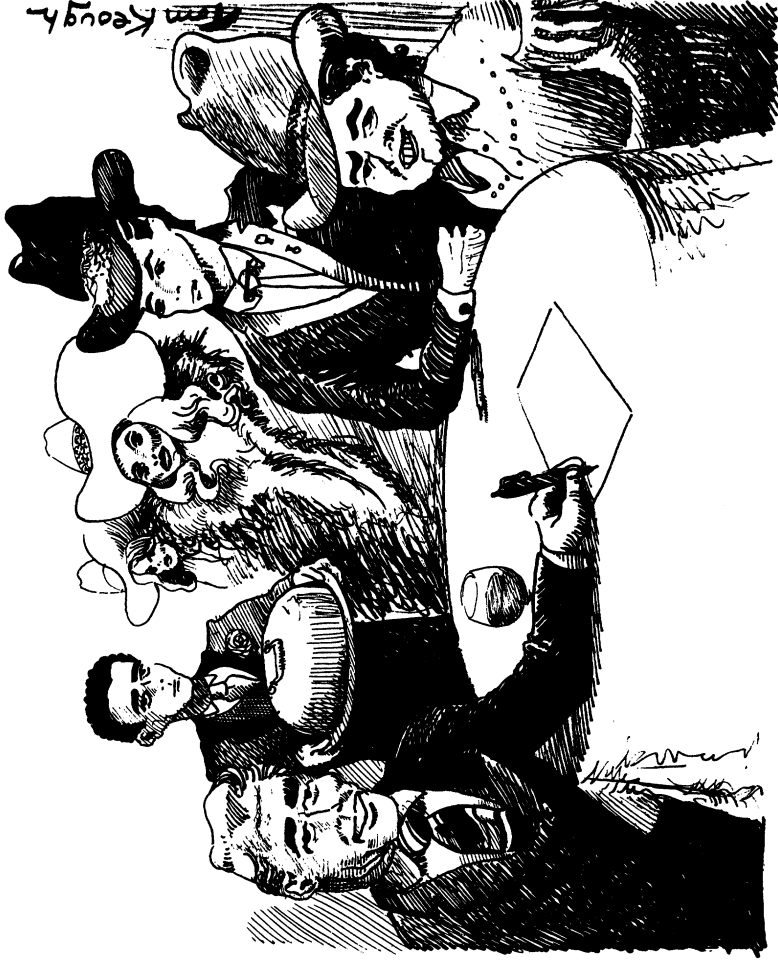
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On January 17, 1981, approximately 5000
people demonstrated in Berkely, California,
calling for an end to United States
intervention in El Salvador.

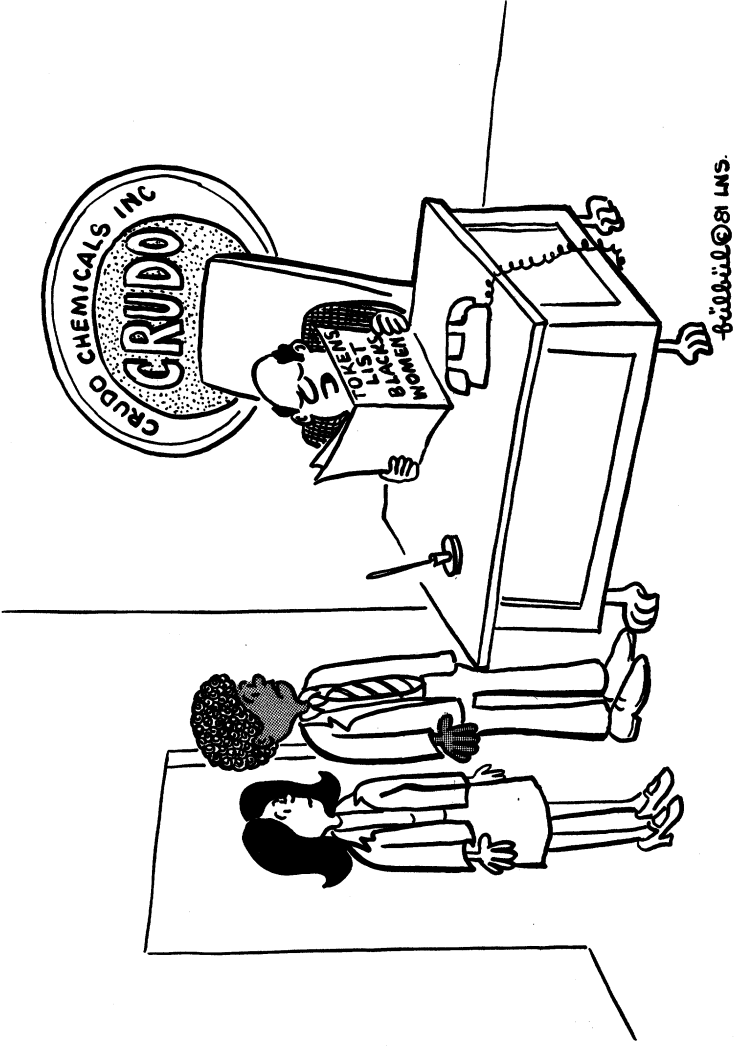
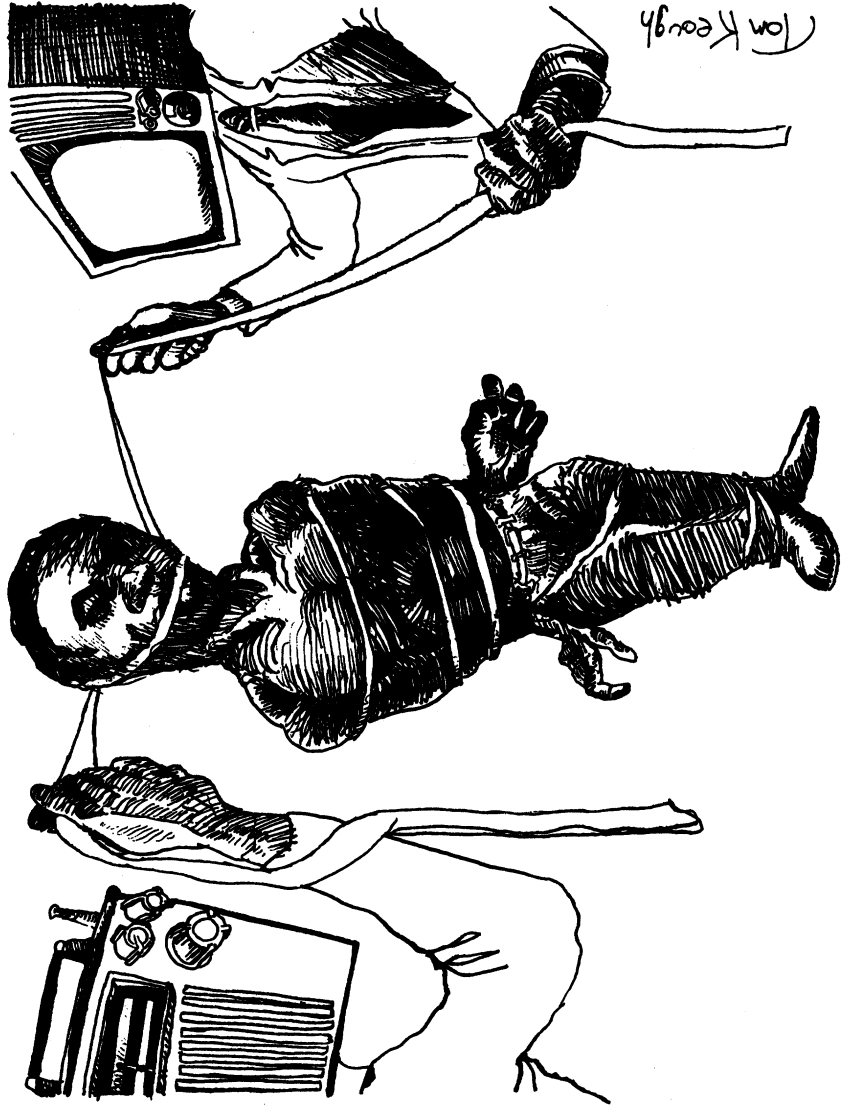
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Boys, pausing from their work in
Guatemala.



the Arabs raising the oil price



WE'VE HAD ANOTHER CHEMICAL SPILL. GO OUT THERE AND MAKE EXCUSES.

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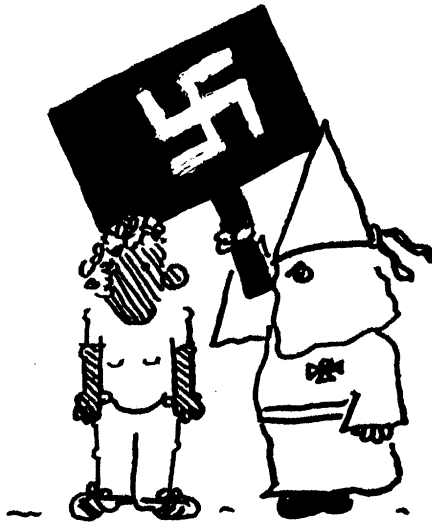
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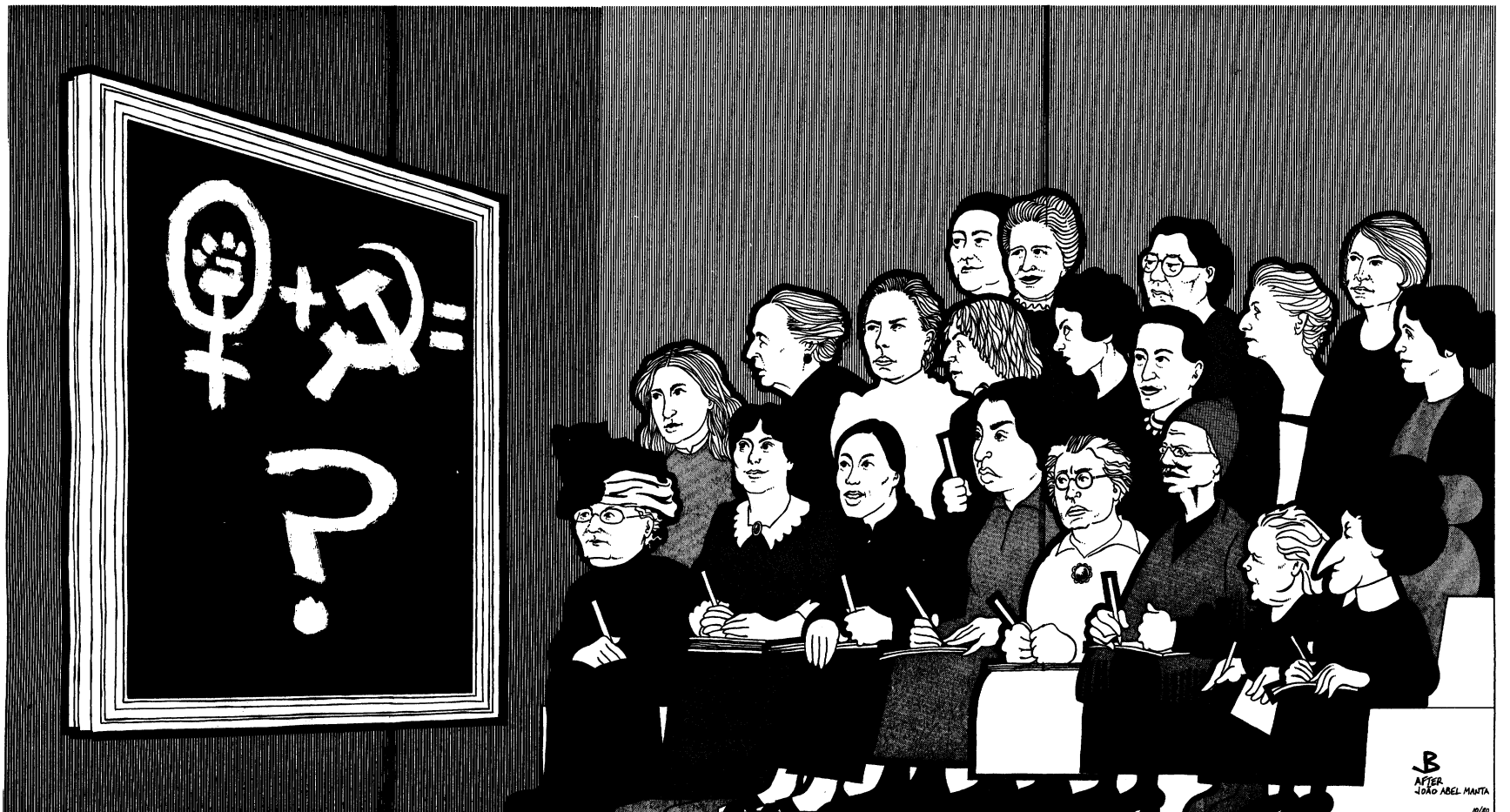
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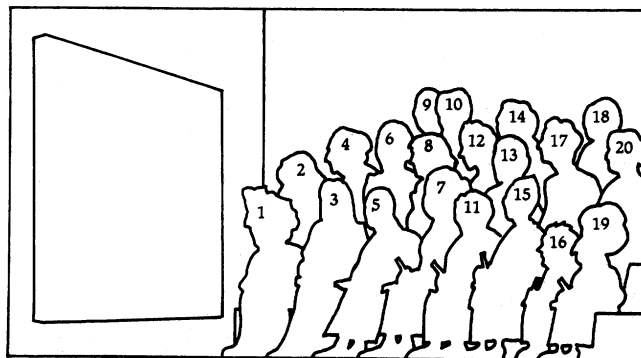


albesmith 1/26/81



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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Mary Harris (Mother) Jones | 11 Emma Goldman |
| 2 Vera Zasulich | 12 Camilla Ravera |
| 3 Eleanor Marx | 13 Simone de Beauvoir |
| 4 Dolores Ibarruri (La Pasionaria) | 14 Teresa Noce |
| 5 Nguyen Thi Binh | 15 Sojourner Truth |
| 6 N. K. Krupskaya | 16 Ella Reeve (Mother) Bloor |
| 7 Angelica Balabanoff | 17 Beatrice Webb |
| 8 Alexandra Kollontai | 18 Felicit Ferrero |
| 9 Clara Zetkin | 19 Rosa Luxemburg |
| 10 Anna Kuliscioff | 20 Elizabeth Gurley Flynn |